

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

1.) Claim Status

Claims 1-24 are pending in the application. The claims have not been amended. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

2.) Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

The Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 7-11, 15-17, 19-20, and 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Biswas, et al. (US 7,653,745 B1).

The Applicants respectfully submit that Biswas is not prior art to the instant application. The instant application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/459,346 filed April 1, 2003. Biswas is a divisional of U.S. Patent Application No. 10,434,581 filed May 8, 2003. Thus, Biswas is not prior art. Therefore, the withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) is respectfully requested.

3.) Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner rejected claims 4-6, 12-14, and 24 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Biswas, et al. (US 7,653,745 B1) in view of Alkhatib (US 2002/0184390 A1).

As noted, Biswas is not prior art to the instant application. The Applicants respectfully submit that Alkhatib alone does not teach or suggest the claimed invention. Therefore, the withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is respectfully requested.

4.) Withdrawal of Finality of Office Action

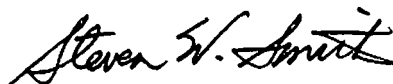
Withdrawal of the finality of the Office Action is respectfully requested since the cited art was not prior art.

5.) Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks, the Applicants believe all of the claims currently pending in the Application to be in condition for allowance. The Applicants, therefore, respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw all rejections and issue a Notice of Allowance for claims 1-24.

The Applicants request a telephone interview if the Examiner has any questions or requires any additional information that would expedite the prosecution of the Application.

Respectfully submitted,



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